

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/694,129

Examiner

Nguyen T Ha

Applicant(s)

SHIH ET AL.

Art Unit

2831

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/25/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17 and 21-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 18-20 are cancelled based on the non-elected claims and have been withdrawn.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-17 and 21-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1-8, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of a decoupling capacitor formed on an integrated circuit comprising a floating drain positioned proximate to the first electrode and separated from the source by the first electrode, wherein the float drain enhances an ability of the decoupling capacitor to withstand electrostatic discharges.

With respect to claims 9-17, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of a multi-fingered decoupling capacitor with electrostatic discharge resistance formed on an integrated circuit, wherein the decoupling capacitor comprising a floating drain being positioned proximate to the first and third electrodes and separated from the first source by the first electrode and from the second source by the

third electrode, and wherein the floating drain enhances an ability of the decoupling capacitor to withstand electrostatic discharges.

With respect to claims 21-25, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of a decoupling capacitor formed on an integrated circuit comprising a floating drain positioned proximate to the gate oxide layer opposite the source and under a dielectric layer, wherein no contact is coupled to the floating drain.

With respect to claim 26, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of an integrated circuit with electrostatic discharge resistance comprising a floating drain positioned between the first and second gates, separated from the first source by the first gate to form a first capacitor, and separated from the second source by the second gate to form a second capacitor, wherein the floating drain enhances an ability of the first and second capacitors to withstand electrostatic discharges.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. The applicant has argued that Vinal et al. is silent with respect to a decoupling capacitor comprising a floating drain positioned proximate to the first electrode and separated from the source by the first electrode, wherein the float drain enhances an ability of the decoupling capacitor to withstand electrostatic discharges. The examiner

finds this argument persuasive. Therefore, the examiner made decision to allow this limitation over the prior art of record.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nguyen T Ha whose telephone number is 571-272-1974. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Nguyen T. Ha**  
**November 19, 2004**



**CHAU N. NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**